## Message Text

**SECRET** 

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P 102307Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

SECRETSTATE 135178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, XO, UR

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR INITIAL MEETING OF US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

1.EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR INITIAL MEETING OF US-SOVIET WORKING GROUP ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE HAVE AGREED SESSION WILL BEGIN JUNE 22 AND LAST ABOUT ONE WEEK. EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON PARAS 2-6 IN APPROACHING SOVIETS.

2.US DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY 13 MEMBERS. DELEGATION WILL BE CHAIRED BY ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE; HIS SECRET

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DEPUTY WILL BE REGINALD BARTHOLOMEW, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICO-MILITARY AFFAIRS BUREAU OF STATE. THERE WILL BE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, DEFENSE, AND THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY. (FYI: DELEGATION WILL ALSO INCLUDE ONE MEMBER FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW. EMBASSY SHOULD DESIGNATE OFFICER FOR THIS POSITION. END FYI)

3.EMBASSY SHOULD INQUIRE WHERE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD. WE ASSUME THAT THE SOVIETS AS HOSTS WILL WISH ALL MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE AT SITE OF THEIR CHOICE.

4.WE SUGGEST THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUP SESSIONS ROTATE BETWEEN THE HEADS OF THE US AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS. AS THE SIDE WHICH SUGGESTED THE FORMATION OF THIS WORKING GROUP, US WISHES TO TAKE LEAD AT FIRST SESSION.

5.US DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE INTERPRETER, AND WE ASSUME SOVIETS WILL ALSO WISH TO HAVE THEIR OWN INTERPRETER PRESENT. US PREFERS CONSECUTIVE RATHER THAN SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION PROCEDURE

6.EMBASSY SHOULD STATE THAT US WILL PAY FOOD AND LODGING EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF US DELEGATION. (FYI: WE HAVE AGREED TO PAY COSTS OF SOVIET CTB DELEGATION IN WASHINGTON TO RECIPROCATE FOR SOVIETS PAYING COSTS OF US PNE DELEGATION IN MOSCOW. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO AVOID REGULARIZING THE PROCEDURE OF HOST PAYING EXPENSES OF VISITING DELEGATIONS END FYI.)

7.FYI: AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HAS INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR AT LARGE LEV ISAAKOVICH MENDELEVICH WILL HEAD THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND THAT HIS DEPUTY WILL BE ADMIRAL NIKOLI NIKOLAYEVICH AMEL'KO. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SUCH SENIOR OFFICIALS, GIVEN THEIR SECRET

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LUKEWARM RESPONSE IN PREVIOUS CONTEXTS. DOBRYNIN ALSO SUGGESTED ORIGINALLY THAT HE FORESAW THE INITIAL SESSION AS LASTING ABOUT TWO WEEKS. WE WILL BE CABLING FURTHER INFORMATION ON US APPROACH AND AGENDA, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE APPOINTMENT OF MENDELEVICH AND AMEL'KO AND THE SUGGESTED LENGTH OF THE INITIAL MEETING PORTENDS FOR THE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING.

8.IN ADDITION TO APPROACHING THE SOVIETS ALONG THE ABOVE LINES, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS EMBASSY TO MAKE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS FOR US DELEGATION:

A.ARRANGE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 15 PEOPLE (12 ?EMBERS OF DELEGATION, INTERPRETER, AND 2 SECRETARIES).

B.DELEGATION WILL REQUIRE A SECURE ROOM FOR PRE-SESSION STRATEGY MEETINGS AFTERNOON OF JUNE 21 AND FOR DAILY STRATEGY SESSIONS DURING COURSE OF TALKS.

C.TWO SECRETARIES WILL BE ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION AND WE REQUEST THAT EMBASSY PROVIDE WORKING SPACE AND EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THEIR USE. VANCE

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